

REMARKS

Claims 9-21 are currently pending in this application. With this Reply, Applicant amends claim 9 and designates this application as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/129,004, filed September 12, 2002, which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU00/01351, filed November 3, 2000, and revised on November 14, 2001.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification filed with this application on February 3, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §132 for introducing new matter into the disclosure and rejected claims 9-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,617,750 to Garehime in view of WO 9420809 to O'Dwyer.

The Examiner objected to the specification filed with this application on February 3, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §132 alleging that it introduces new matter into the disclosure. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the added material not supported by the original disclosure includes: pg. 4, ll. 7-12; pg. 4, ll. 31 - pg. 5, ll. 9; and pg. 6, ll. 18 - pg. 7, ll. 7, for example. (Office Action at 3.) The Examiner further indicated, however, that "Applicant may avoid canceling new matter by designating the instant application as a continuation-in-part of PCT/AU/01351." (Office Action at 3.) Accordingly, with this Reply, Applicant designates this application as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/129,004, filed September 12, 2002, which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/AU00/01351, filed November 3, 2000, and revised on November 14, 2001. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the specification of this application.

The Examiner also rejected claims 9-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,617,750 to Garehime in view of WO 9420809 to

O'Dwyer. In light of this Reply and the amendment of claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest pending claims 9-21.

Amended claim 9 recites, among other things, "a firing controller that receives signals from the sensor system, automatically aims, and triggers the weapon..."

(Emphasis added.) Support for amended claim 9 can be found, for example, at pg. 5, ll. 3-9.

In rejecting claims 9-12, the Examiner alleges that Garehime discloses "a defense system for an area comprising: at least one optics sensor 128; multiple barrel gun 126; a firing controller (the operator); and video console 26)" while O'Dwyer discloses a "barrel being loaded with multiple projectiles that are sequentially selected and fired." (Office Action at 3.) The Examiner alleges that "one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to provide the system of Garehime with the barrel system of O'Dwyer." While Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's allegations regarding claims 9-12, claim 9 is amended by this Reply. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejections and timely allow amended claim 9, and claims 10-21, which depend on amended claim 9.

Neither Garehime, O'Dwyer, nor a combination of the two teaches every limitation of amended claim 9. Neither Garehime nor O'Dwyer discloses "a firing controller that receives signals from the sensor system, automatically aims, and triggers the weapon..." (emphasis added). In fact, both Garehime and O'Dwyer are silent regarding the capability of the firing controller to automatically aim the weapon. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection and

allow amended claim 9. Further, Applicant requests that the Examiner allow claims 10-21, due at least to their dependence on amended claim 9.

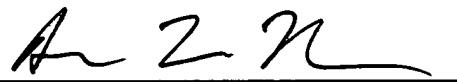
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 12, 2005

By: 
Aaron L. Parker
Reg. No. 50,785